

### SKETCH OF E. W. HOCH

Something of Life of the Next Governor.

BY ONE OF HIS FRIENDS

Estimate of the Editor by J. E. House.

J. E. House of the Topeka Capital wrote the following sketch of E. W. Hoch, the next governor of Kansas, before his nomination:

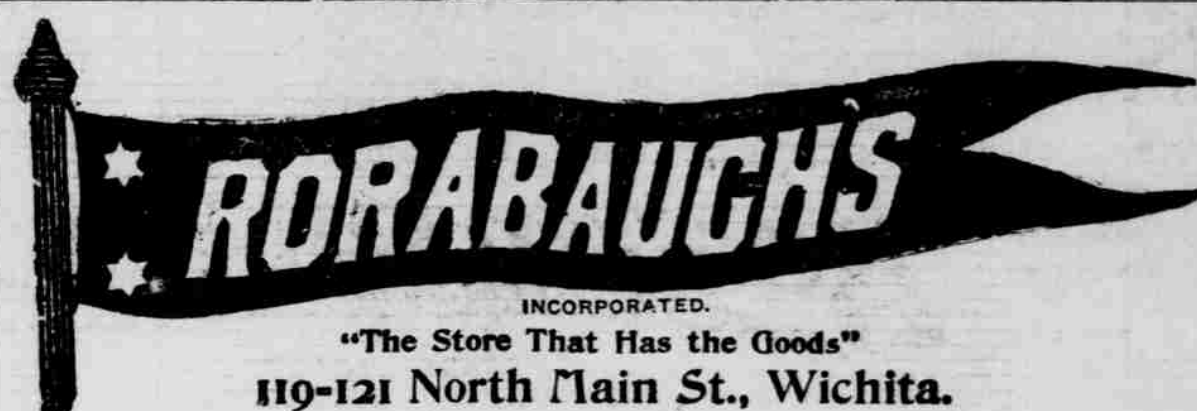
This hurried study of E. W. Hoch is not written with the idea of idealizing the man who has been "drafted." That sort of thing is the peculiar property of those who were behind Hoch's candidacy for governor, whether they be writers, creators or politicians. It is rather the observations and deductions of a man who knows nothing of the politics of the question and whose interest in matters political ends where good citizenship ends. What follows here is intended to be a fair and honest estimate of the Hoch personality. It will be a kindly valuation, since it was written by a man who has been Hoch's personal friend for more than ten years. But Hoch's limitations, so far as the governorship is concerned, will be set down and the things that violent factional prejudice have placed to his discredit will not be concealed.

There is a disposition among Hoch's political opponents to create the impression that Hoch is a self-seeker. There have been covert sneers at his well-meant attempt to let the cup of the governorship pass from him. It has been hinted—even charged—that this is a cloak made to fit the character for honesty in politics which his friends have given him. Hoch's assumption of fairness and morality as his guide in politics has been termed a veneer—a bait to catch suckers who vote. This rubbish should be cleared away. Whatever E. W. Hoch's limitations, whatever his faults, he is honest to the core from the heart. He doesn't care to be governor, and would greatly prefer leaving it to taking it. That he has tacitly agreed to accept it is not because he cares for the place—he knows full well the worry and the annoyance entailed in the legacy. But he is the old fashioned sort of politician who believes in the voice of the people, and he further believes that a considerable number of the people have called.

This reluctance on the part of Hoch to take office is not a new pose. He is, perhaps, the one man in Kansas who has persistently hidden from the office in its search for the man. This has the sound of airy perfidage and to prove it to those who scoff and jeer these instances, all well established in the political annals of Kansas are cited. Hoch first showed his head above the political horizon of Kansas when he came to the legislature of 1889. He was not more than a receptive candidate for the place when the Republicans of Marion county drafted him for it. He came to Topeka, served through-out the session with credit, and returning home declined a nomination for re-election. "I have had," he said to the followers who would have recommended him by acclamation, "enough of the 33 day kind." Meanwhile Thomas Ryan had gone as minister to Mexico and there was a gap in the Kansas delegation. To be filled by the election of a congressman from the Fourth district, Hoch went to the Burlington convention with the Marion county delegation and some additional strength. He could have been nominated for congress had he agreed to do certain things unnecessary to nominate in this bond. He declined and went back to the Marion Record office, while Harrison Kelly, dead long since, went on to Washington for his brief day in the greater public service. Hoch was sent to the legislature again in 1892. He had not been in any sense a candidate for the place. There had been talk of his candidacy, but he had done everything within the power of his newspaper to discourage it. He was not in the hall when the delegates met and the half score of lightweights who were out for the place began their active skirmish for it. When nominations for representative were called J. Hudson Morse, of Peabody, a statesman of the generation preceding, got on his feet and nominated Hoch in an impromptu address. The nomination was a surprise to the convention and equally a surprise to Hoch, who was in his newspaper office three blocks away. But the convention took the bit in its teeth and ran over the candidates, nominating Hoch by acclamation. It is a fact well known and disputed of men that Hoch could have had the Fourth district congressional nomination when the Populists gerrymandered Charles Curtis into the First district. He was the first man considered by the district leaders for the place and had he gotten in he would have had not more than nominal opposition. The offer was carried to Hoch at Marion and he positively declined to stand for the nomination. Hoch has never cared for but one office within the gift of the people of Kansas. He has wanted for more than ten years to be state printer. He wants to be state printer now. There was a Hoch flurry in the gubernatorial campaign of 1894, predicated upon the fact that Governor Merrill had not given satisfaction to all the elements of his party. Hoch's friends tried to push him into the race and half way succeeded, although nothing came of it. When the Hoch boom began to stir up and notice things in the early spring of 1894 this writer was the editor of a newspaper in a town so near Marion as to be considered a neighbor. Hoch had discouraged his gubernatorial boom in his newspaper and to make sure of his position and to lessen the chances of getting off on the wrong foot the writer made a trip to Marion to talk things over. "I am not," said Mr. Hoch in response to his query, "a candidate for governor. I should like to be state printer some time. I am candidate for the place now. Other than that I never expect to be a candidate for any political job in Kansas." That was ten years ago come April. Hoch has since declined a nomination for congress, twice refused the Marion postoffice, has made one active campaign for state printer and has been dragged, must against his will, into the race for governor.

The things set forth above lend additional interest to the present attitude of

**Department Managers' Sale**  
**Monday and Tuesday**



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**Monday and Tuesday**

## DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' SALE

The Managers of our various Departments will give a Special Sale in their Department each trying to out do the other in giving the best value at 50c. This will undoubtedly be the greatest value giving event of the season. Read over the list below of the offerings in the various Departments and note the wonderful values they offer you.

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Dress Goods Dep'tm't**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
5 pieces Mohairs 44 inches wide; colors black, blue, red and gray. Regular 75c yard value, for  
**50c Yard**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Silk Department**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
Peau De Soie Black Silk, 19 inches wide. Just the thing for Waist or Dress. Regular 75c value, for  
**50c Yard**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Wash Goods Dep'm't**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
20 pieces Suitings in Borettes, Linens, Figured Etamines and Voiles. Regular price from 58c to 75c yard, for  
**50c Yard**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Domestic Department**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
Dresser Scarfs, all linen, hemstitched, size 18x54.  
Lunch Cloths, German Linen, Silver Bleached, Hemstitched, size 36x36.  
68-inch all Linen Damask 1-2 Bleached, extra heavy,  
**50c**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Lace Department**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
1200 yards Point De Venice Lace, all widths, worth from 15 to 25c per yard, 5 yards for  
**50c**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Toilet Goods Deptm't**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
3-quart Fountain Syringe or Hot Water Bottle "Goodyear Rubber Co." worth \$1.00.  
12 rolls 10c Toilet Paper, for  
**50c**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Suit Department**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
Ladies' White Lawn Waists, nicely trimmed in Yoke, tucked front and back, new sleeve. Regular 75c value,  
**50c**

**Suit Department** Second Floor  
**Ladies' Dress Skirts**  
We have just secured the local agency for one of the best lines of Ladies' High Grade Dress Skirts in the country, and are showing some of the prettiest Novelty Skirts that are in the city. Materials, such as Voiles, Crepe De Chene, Grenadines, Etc., trimmed in such a manner that they must be seen to be appreciated. Prices from \$5.00 to **\$35.00**



**Silk Coats**  
We are now showing a line of Taffeta and Peau De Soie Jackets in the new creations, **\$16.50** from \$5.00 to .....

**New Wash Shirt Waist Suits**  
One of this season's most promising garments has made its appearance in our Suit Room. The line is very pretty including all the new wash materials and in all colors. Come early and get your choice of patterns, from \$2.50 to **\$6.50**

### Women's Washable Waists

This department is especially interesting because the values are so good and the prices so reasonable. We are offering Waists that possess distinction of style and individuality. "The Marquise" we carry a complete line of them in all sizes and up to the minute styles and materials.



PURE LINEN WAISTS from \$2.25 to **\$8.50**  
LIGHT WEIGHT FANCY TRIMMED MERCERIZED VESTINGS, \$2.50 to **\$6.50**  
FINE LINEN WAISTS with all the new designs and patterns, the best money can buy, from \$3.50 to **\$12.50**  
JAP SILK WAISTS in white and black, from \$3.00 to **\$8.00**

### Millinery Department

Second Floor

**First Showing of the New Early Spring Styles of Street Hats and Tailor-Made Hats**  
**New Arrivals Every Day**



### Carpet Department

MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
20 Pair Lace Curtains, full 3 yards long, are cheap at 75c, for **50c Pair**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Hosiery Department**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
50 dozen Ladies' Fast Black Hose, full regular made high spliced heel, French toe, regular 25c quality, 3 pairs for  
**50c**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Corset Department**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
15 dozen Kabo Girdle non-lacing Corsets, colors pink, white, drab, blue and black. Regular \$1.00 value, for  
**50c**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Notion Department**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
10 dozen Extra Quality Shears, worth from 75c to \$1.00 pair, for  
**50c Pair**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Leather Goods Dep't**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
Ladies' Handbag, made of Walrus Leather, inside pocket with purse.  
12 dozen Girdle Belts, all colors, worth \$1.00, for  
**50c**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Art Department**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
6 dozen Cushion Cords with Tassels, 3 yards long, in all colors,  
**50c Each**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Toilet Goods Dep'tm't**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
10 dozen Hair Brushes, genuine Bristles, worth \$1.00, each  
1 Box, 6 Cakes Munyon's Witch Hazel Soap, worth 15c cake, for  
**50c**

ON SALE IN OUR  
**Shoe Department**  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
We will offer some Children's Shoes, regular price 75c and \$1.00, for  
**50c**

Mr. Hoch toward the nomination which may be tendered him. With every man who comes to him he discusses the matter frankly, and the gist of what he says is this: "I do not care, and have never cared to be governor. I do not feel that I could decline it if it came to me unsought. I hung fire for several weeks between the importunities of my friends and my better judgment. When I finally declined to actively enter the race I thought the matter settled for good. There are a number of reasons why I could not get my own consent to run for governor. Some of them were purely business reasons. The thing that urged me most strongly was that I believed I could serve my party best by staying out. I wanted to see the factional wounds in the party healed over. I realized that an active can-

vass for the place on my part would have aggravated them. No matter what the result it would have appeared that I made the race as a matter of spite and to hurt or cripple the men who opposed me in my race for state printer. I do not care for that sort of reputation. Above all I wanted the breach in the party closed. I thought my action in staying out would best conserve that end. I have no kindly feeling toward the men who, taking the part of Jesse James, robbed me of the thing I had honestly earned last winter. But the Republican party has always been kind to me and I wanted to be appreciative in turn. I have wanted for a long time to be state printer. I wanted the place because it pays well. I do not care for the money for its own sake, but I wanted after more than thirty

years of hard labor in Kansas to settle down to a life where I should have time to read and write and think the things I care for. I am a poor man. The state printer's office would have fixed me comfortably in life, and I should have had thereafter leisure for the things for which I care most. I am not in any sense a politician. I do not care for political prestige and power. The scheming and manipulation necessary to secure in practical politics do not attract me. I do not condemn that sort of thing. While politics ought to be on a broader plane, manipulation is necessary to meet present conditions. But personally I have no liking for the game. If I am elected governor now I can be the sort of governor I want to be. When I declined to enter the race I absolved myself from obligation to any faction. Otherwise I should

have been inevitably bound to certain factional movements. Now I should be able to do what seemed to me to be the best thing to make many mistakes. But I could, at least, be governor. I shall make no canvass for the place. If it is given me I shall do the best I can."

Hoch born in 1846, came to Kansas from Kentucky in 1872 and went to Marion county with the first advertising car that filled the country west of Emporia. Something of the Kentucky vernacular is still upon his tongue and he betrays his latitudinal origin indistinctly at every turn of speech. His father had been a Kentucky Republican in the days when to be a Republican was to invite death to a seat on one's doorstep. Hoch, too young to carry a musket, had the sound of tramping feet, dimmed into his ears at a time when impressions crystallize quickly

into convictions, and he saw all the horrors of the civil war as it was exemplified in a state where brothers tried to shoot each other down and families split upon the sharp edge of secession. He settled in Florence and established that town's first newspaper, the Florence Pioneer. In 1873 he went to Atchison and helped establish the Record, a newspaper which he has edited continuously for more than thirty years. It has ranked always as one of the strong Republican weeklies of Kansas and to country newspapers has been more frequently or widely quoted. It survived the grasshopper year, the droughts and the other evils which from time to time beset the state, and when the day of pioneering was over and the accumulation of property began, the Record rounded into a moderately well paying country newspaper, which means that the editor was able to live as comfortably and well as the majority of his neighbors, but that the substance left for storing at the end of each year was inconsiderable. Today Hoch has these things to his financial credit. He has given to those of his children who are grown a good education. He has left his newspaper, his office building, his residence and a reputation for honesty which is good at the bank for any sum of money he is likely to need. The Record has always been the dominant note in Marion county. Its influence held its constituency as eddies together during the years of Populist transgression that the party never at any time failed to elect more than one man on its ticket, and even this form of backsliding occurred so infrequently as to be only

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